



LINCOLN HEALTH FOUNDATION

Improving Health Care and Outcomes for Residents of Lincoln Parish

Initiative:	Healthier Beginnings
Project Name:	Louisiana Tech University School of Human Ecology <i>Bulldog Book Club – Increasing Lincoln Parish Preschoolers’ Access to Books in the Home</i>
Funding Period:	September 1, 2018 – August 30, 2019
Project Coordinator:	Julie M. Rutledge, PhD
Project Administration:	Louisiana Tech University School of Human Ecology
Total Funding Requested:	\$60,812.00

Program Summary

The purpose of the grant is to continue the successful implementation of a Lincoln Parish-wide literacy outreach program open to all children who attend a non-profit, non-affiliated preschool. Three pre-school programs fitting this description, the Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Center (LPECC), Head Start, and Louisiana Tech Early Childhood Education Center, have participated in in the *Bulldog Book Club*. More than 35,000 books have been delivered to more than 1,700 preschoolers and their families. A new program addition this year is Bulldog Book Club for Babies.

Grant Objectives

The objectives of the program are:

- To increase preschoolers’ access to books in the home
- To increase parent’s access to current, research-based knowledge on children’s health and social development topics
- To create Bulldog Book Club “gear” stickers and implementation of “Mini-Programs” (STEM-based, music, and movement)
- To encourage parents to include reading time with their children in daily activities.

To accomplish the program objectives, preschooler participants in the BBC receive a BBC bag each month. The first bag includes welcome information to the children and parents, information about the program, BBC gear, and the first book. Each subsequent month’s bag includes a book, BBC gear, and, potentially, any information from the

community that specifically focuses on services and opportunities available to children and families in the Lincoln Parish community. Bags distributed the month of May will include four books to cover May – August to encourage reading over the summer. Each month, the books and information have a particular theme. Books are translated for preschoolers who do not have English-speaking parents. For the new BBC for Babies program, kits will be distributed at Northern Louisiana Medical Center to all parents of newborns. Kits will include 12 books and 12 flyers, which will cover developmental milestones and tips for parents on how to help their children reach their milestones.